## A Field Guide to Little-Known and Seldom-Seen Birds of North America

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Offers tongue in cheek descriptions of imaginary birds in a parody of field guides John Sill holds a BS in wildlife wiology from North Carolina State University. He is a prizewinning and widely published wildlife artist.

Cathryn Sill teaches elementary school in Franklin, North Carolina, and like her husband John, enjoys birding and nature photography.

Ben Sill, John's brother, teaches civil engineering at Clemson University, and is an avid birder.

Aficionados will find themselves squawking with laughter at the ingenuity and mockseriousness of this engaging volume by three avid birders. Consider the Sills' commitment to jargon-free birding terminology: in their guide, "ill tempered," "nocturnal migration," "feed actively" and "flock" become "fowl behavior," "fly by night," "pig out" and "whole bunch." The 32 fanciful species described, complete with superb, realistic color drawings that reflect John Sill's considerable skill as a wildlife illustrator, range from the droll to the hilarious: Skia, or Sasquatch Yeti, recognized by their big, ski-type feet; Least Minitwit, or Awfulii Smallus Jr.a sampling of this "itsy bitsy" creature is obtained by covering a flyswatter with foam rubber "since squished birds cannot be legitimately added to a life list." The authors sustain their tongue-in-cheek approach through mock-scholarly apparatus: a bibliography ("Field Guide to Guano," by Fir T. Lizer) and authentic-looking graphs that correlate new species to UFO sightings, volcanic eruptions, night baseball games and the national debt. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Other Books

About Crustaceans. Any young seashore visitor or beachcomber will enjoy this beginner's guide to crustaceans from Cathryn and John Sill, creators of the celebrated About... series. In this volume from the series, educator and author Cathryn Sill uses simple, easy-to-understand language to teach children what crustaceans are, how they look, how they protect themselves, what they eat, and where they live. With beautifully detailed, realistic paintings, noted wildlife illustrator John Sill introduces readers to the diversity of the crustacean population, from the sand fiddler crab to the California rock lobster. An afterword provides more details about the species featured. This books is ideal for casual explorations into nature as well as for early childhood and elementary science units on animals.

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